



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager  
860-441-6630

## Meeting Minutes

### Town Council

**Mayor Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Karen F. Morton, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson**

**Tuesday, March 5, 2013**

**7:30 PM**

**Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1**

#### **REGULAR MEETING**

#### **I. ROLL CALL**

*The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Somers.*

Members Present: Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Morton, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.*

#### **II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

*The Salute to the Flag was led by Tom Taber.*

#### **III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS**

##### **2013-0019 Proclamation Recognizing the 2012 Mystic Little League Junior Softball All-Stars**

**Read**

*The proclamation was read by Councilor Flax and copies were distributed to each member of the team. Manager Tom Taber thanked the Council and gave Mayor Somers a picture of the All-Star Team. The picture will be placed in Town Hall.*

##### **2013-0055 Proclamation Recognizing Tyler Mark Homand**

**Read**

*The proclamation was read by Councilor Morton.*

##### **Moment of Silence**

*A moment of silence was observed for Lillian Hansen who passed away February 28, 2013. Ms. Hansen was a great community leader, a Girl Scout leader, organizer of the first teen group in Groton, and an active member of the Groton Senior Center. He noted that Councilor Johnson is her grandson, and expressed his condolences.*

##### **Fitch Senior High School Marching Band to Represent Connecticut**

*Councilor Streeter announced that the Fitch Senior High School Marching Band has been chosen to represent Connecticut in the 4th of July Parade in Washington, D.C.*

#### **IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

*None.*

#### **V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

*None.*

#### **VI. CONSENT CALENDAR**

##### **a. Approval of Minutes**

##### **2013-0061 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

accepted and approved.

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**b. Administrative Items**

**2013-0050 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS**

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Various Donations - \$478.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Mary Atha - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Lois Babcock - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Juliet Cafaro - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Richard Davies - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Kenneth Fish - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Linda Fox - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Dennis Haines - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Diane Haines - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Darrell and Dorothy Haines - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Jean Kennedy - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Bruce and Nancy Labelle - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Theofanis and Christina Lamos - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Clifton Martelle - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Nidia and Bernard Somers - \$3.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Kathleen and David Vanner - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Anonymous - \$75.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
Larry and Betty Anne Reiter - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
Alan M. Major - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
Robert and Phyllis Boggs - \$10.97 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Pasquale Fazio - \$30.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Reverend Darnelle Johnson - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Armand and Nancy Morin - \$40.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Jeanne Schneider - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Christopher Smarra - \$30.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Sadie Tremblay - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Barbara Weeman - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Linda Westhusin - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Charles Rogers - \$35.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
Mildred Reed - \$20.00 - Library Miscellaneous

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**

**2013-0049 Department of Agriculture Aquaculture Division Interaction with Shellfish Commission and Noank Hatchery**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**

**2013-0052 Non-Resident Taxpayer Voting Authorization**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**

**2013-0056 LoveGov Presentation**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**

**2013-0058 Introduction of Ordinance Changing and Redefining the Voting Districts**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**2013-0059 Resolution Setting Public Hearing on Ordinance Changing and Redefining the Voting**

**Districts**

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

**2013-0060****Resolution on Charles Barnum Asbestos Floor Tile Removal**

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

**2013-0062****Public Hearing on FYE 2014 Proposed Budget**

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

**Passed The Consent Calendar**

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Antipas, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

**VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)****a. Town Councilors**

*Councilors received communications regarding the reuse of Noank School, debris from the recent rain storm, a police action currently under investigation, snowy sidewalks on Route 215, the Groton Long Point Bridge, and cuts in the education budget.*

*As Town Historian, Councilor Streeter taped two programs for the video series Welcome to Groton." He gave a presentation to the Groton Business Association about the Groton Veterans' Memorial Park. Councilor Streeter noted that Par Four will host a fund-raiser on March 9, 2013, with one-half of the proceeds going to Social Services and the other half to the Groton Veterans' Memorial Park.*

*Councilor Streeter and Councilor Morton attended the Eagle Scout Ceremony for Tyler Mark Homand.*

*Councilor Watson, Mayor Somers, and the Town Manager attended a reception for the Mystic Schooners.*

*Councilor Johnson thanked everyone for their condolences. A memorial service for his grandmother, Lillian Hansen, will be held on March 18, 2013.*

*Mayor Somers reminded citizens that it is their responsibility to shovel sidewalks in front of their homes; the Town is responsible for the maintenance of the Groton Long Point Bridge; and the Board of Education decides what to cut in the education budget. A meeting was held with State Legislators regarding the property at Pfizer and how to move things forward. Mayor Somers will have office hours from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Groton Public Library, Room 5, on March 9, 2013. She announced that the library will have a free screening of the movie Argo on March 11, 2013, and there will be a Carnevale to benefit TVCCA Meals on Wheels at Port 'N Starboard on April 6, 2013.*

**b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting**

*The next meeting of the RTM will be held on March 13, 2013.*

**c. Clerk of the Council**

*No report.*

**d. Town Manager**

*The Town Manager stated that the 2nd Annual Dancing with the Stars will be held March 8, 2013. Due to bad weather, the Mystic River Bridge closure has been postponed until March 11, 2013. The Town Manager stated that after the recent bond rating review, the Town was rated affirmed with a stable outlook." He noted that as a result of recent bond refunding, debt service will be reduced by \$1.6M over the next 15-20 years. The proposed budget is at the printer and budget*

*books will be distributed next week. The Town Manager noted that a Special Town Council meeting will be held on March 12, 2013, to consider items related to the change in voting districts.*

**e. Town Attorney**

*No report.*

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Schmidt**

*No meeting, no report.*

**b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson**

*No meeting, no report.*

**c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Watson**

*No meeting, no report.*

**d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Peruzzotti**

*No meeting, no report.*

**e. Finance - Chairman Morton**

*No meeting, no report.*

**f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax**

*No meeting, no report.*

**g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter**

*No meeting, no report.*

**h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Antipas**

*No meeting, no report.*

**i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Somers**

*Mayor Somers noted that the Committee of the Whole discussed changes in the voting districts, the reuse of Noank School, the Groton Long Point budget request, removal of asbestos floor tiles at Charles Barnum, and a hearing date for the budget.*

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*None.*

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

**2013-0058 Introduction of Ordinance Changing and Redefining the Voting Districts**

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE CHANGING AND REDEFINING THE VOTING DISTRICTS IN THE TOWN OF GROTON

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON:

That Section 6-1 of the Code of Ordinances, "Voting Districts", consisting of Ordinance Nos. 105, 212, 217, and 254 adopted by the Town Council on October 2, 1972, February 18, 1992, March 2, 1993 and July 2, 2002, respectively, is hereby repealed, and the following ordinance is hereby enacted in lieu thereof:

1. The following areas shall hereafter constitute the Voting Districts in the Town of Groton and are hereby adopted to conform to the 2011 Plan of Congressional Districting approved by the State of Connecticut Supreme Court on February 10, 2012 and published by the State of Connecticut Secretary of State on February 15, 2012, and to enact other changes to be made hereby by the Groton Town Council pursuant to Town of Groton Charter § 3.7:

FIRST VOTING DISTRICT

Beginning at the northeast corner of this voting district at a point at the intersection of the centerline of Flanders Road and the centerline of the southbound lane of Interstate Route 95; thence running southerly with the centerline of Flanders Road to a point at its intersection with the centerline of Fort Hill Road (U.S. Route 1), thence running southerly and westerly with the centerline of Fort Hill Road (U.S. Route 1) to a point at the intersection with the centerline of Fort Hill Brook; thence running southerly with the centerline of Fort Hill Brook to Mumford Cove; thence running southerly with the centerline of Mumford Cove and crossing Fishers Island Sound to the south boundary of the Town of Groton; thence running westerly along the south boundary of the Town of Groton to its intersection with the east boundary of the City of Groton; thence running northerly along the east boundary of the City of Groton through Baker Cove; thence running northwesterly and northerly along the east boundary of the City of Groton through Baker Cove and Birch Plain Creek to an angle point in the City of Groton boundary on the south side of Poquonnock Road; thence running northwesterly along the City of Groton boundary and the south side of Poquonnock Road to an angle point in the City of Groton boundary; thence running northerly along the City of Groton boundary to its intersection with the centerline of Meridian Street Extension; thence running southeasterly and easterly with the centerline of Meridian Street Extension to Long Hill Road (U.S. Route 1); thence running northwesterly with the centerline of Long Hill Road (U.S. Route 1) to the intersection with the centerline of the southbound lane of Clarence B. Sharp Highway (Connecticut Route 349); thence running easterly with the centerline of the southbound lane of Clarence B. Sharp Highway (Connecticut Route 349) to its intersection with the centerline of the Interstate Route 95 exit 87 southbound ramp; thence running easterly with the centerline of the Interstate Route 95 exit 87 southbound ramp to its intersection with the centerline of the southbound lane of Interstate Route 95; thence running easterly with the centerline of the southbound lane of Interstate Route 95 to its intersection with the centerline of Flanders Road and to the point of the beginning. All areas lying within the foregoing boundaries shall constitute the First Voting District of the Town of Groton.

#### SECOND VOTING DISTRICT

Beginning at the northwest corner of this voting district at a point on the GROTON-NEW LONDON town line; thence running due east to the intersection of Eastern Point Road and Nicholas Avenue; thence running easterly with the centerline of Nicholas Avenue to Benham Road; thence crossing Benham Road to Hynes Avenue and continuing easterly with the centerline of Hynes Avenue to Brandegee Avenue; thence running northerly with the centerline of Brandegee Avenue to Rainville Avenue; thence running easterly and northeasterly with the centerline of Rainville Avenue to Poquonnock Road; thence running southeasterly with the centerline of Poquonnock Road to a point on the east boundary of the City of Groton; thence running southerly along the east boundary of the City of Groton to an angle point in the City of Groton boundary on the south side of Poquonnock Road; thence running southeasterly along the City of Groton boundary to the east boundary of the City of Groton; thence running southerly and southeasterly along the east boundary of the City of Groton through Birch Plain Creek and Baker Cove; thence running southerly along the east boundary of the City of Groton through Baker Cove and Fishers Island Sound to the south boundary of the Town of Groton; thence running westerly along the south boundary of the Town of Groton; thence running northerly along the GROTON-NEW LONDON town line to a point due west of the intersection of Eastern Point Road and Nicholas Avenue and to the point of the beginning. All areas lying within the foregoing boundaries shall constitute the Second Voting District of the Town of Groton.

#### THIRD VOTING DISTRICT

Beginning at the northwest corner of this voting district and the northwest corner of the City of Groton; thence running easterly along the north boundary of the City of Groton and the north side of Grove Avenue; thence running southeasterly, southerly and southeasterly along the northeast boundary of the City of Groton to a point in the vicinity of Meridian Street Extension; thence running southerly along the east boundary of the City of Groton on to a point in the centerline of Poquonnock Road; thence running northwesterly with the centerline of Poquonnock Road to

Rainville Avenue; thence running southwesterly and westerly with the centerline of Rainville Avenue to Brandegee Avenue; thence running southerly with the centerline of Brandegee Avenue to Hynes Avenue; thence running westerly with the centerline of Hynes Avenue to Benham Road; thence crossing Benham road to Nicholas Avenue and continuing westerly with the centerline of Nicholas Avenue to Eastern Point Road; thence running due west to the GROTON-NEW LONDON town line; thence running northerly along the GROTON-NEW LONDON town line to the northwest corner of the City of Groton and to the point of the beginning. All areas lying within the foregoing boundaries shall constitute the Third Voting District of the Town of Groton.

#### FOURTH VOTING DISTRICT

Beginning at the northwestern corner of this voting district running along the GROTON-LEDYARD town line to the intersection of North Road (Connecticut Route 117); thence running southerly with the centerline of North Road (Connecticut Route 117); thence running westerly with the centerline of the southbound lane of Interstate Route 95 to its intersection with the Interstate Route 95 exit 87 southbound ramp; thence running southwesterly with the centerline of the Interstate Route 95 exit 87 southbound ramp to its intersection with U.S. Route 1; thence running southeasterly with the centerline of U.S. Route 1 to the intersection of Meridian Street Extension; thence running westerly and northwesterly with the centerline of Meridian Street Extension to its intersection with the easterly boundary of the City of Groton; thence running northerly and northwesterly along the northeast boundary of the City of Groton to a point on the north side of Grove Avenue; thence running westerly along the north boundary of the City of Groton to the GROTON-NEW LONDON town line; thence running northerly along the GROTON-NEW LONDON town line and the GROTON-WATERFORD town line to its intersection with the GROTON-LEDYARD town line and to the point of the beginning. All Areas lying within the foregoing boundaries shall constitute the Fourth Voting District of the Town of Groton.

#### FIFTH VOTING DISTRICT

Beginning at the northeast corner of this district and the northeast corner of the Town of Groton at a point in Hyde Pond; thence running southerly along the GROTON-STONINGTON town line through Whitford Brook and the Mystic River to its intersection with the centerline of the south bound lane of Interstate Route 95; thence running westerly with the centerline of the south bound lane of Interstate 95 to its intersection with the centerline of Connecticut Route 117; thence running northerly with the centerline of Connecticut Route 117 to its intersection with the GROTON-LEDYARD town line; thence running easterly along the GROTON-LEDYARD town line to the point of beginning. All areas lying within the foregoing boundaries shall constitute the Fifth Voting District of the Town of Groton.

#### SIXTH VOTING DISTRICT

Beginning at the northeast corner of this voting district at a point where the centerline of the south bound lane of Interstate Route 95 crosses the GROTON-STONINGTON town line in the Mystic River; thence running southerly along the GROTON-STONINGTON town line through the Mystic River to a point southeasterly of the railroad bridge over Beebe Cove; thence running northwesterly through the railroad bridge over Beebe Cove to a point in Beebe Cove west of Half Penny Island; thence running northerly in Beebe Cove to a point in line with the prolongation southeasterly of the centerline of Fishtown Road; thence running northwesterly with the prolongation of Fishtown Road, crossing Beebe Cove, the shore and Elm Street (Connecticut Route 215) to Fishtown Road; thence running northwesterly and northerly with the centerline of Fishtown Road to its intersection with New London Road (U.S. Route 1) and Noank Ledyard Road; thence running northerly, northeasterly and northerly with the centerline of Noank Ledyard Road to its intersection with the centerline of the south bound lane of Interstate Route 95; thence running easterly with the centerline of the south bound lane of Interstate Route 95 to the GROTON-STONINGTON town line and to the point of the beginning. All areas lying within the foregoing boundaries shall constitute the Sixth Voting District of the Town of Groton.

**SEVENTH VOTING DISTRICT**

Beginning at a point on the GROTON-STONINGTON town line southeast of the railroad bridge over Beebe Cove; thence running southerly along the GROTON-STONINGTON town line to the south boundary of the Town of Groton; thence running westerly along the south boundary of the Town of Groton to a point south of Mumford Cove; thence running northerly along the centerline of Mumford Cove to Fort Hill Brook; thence running northerly along the centerline of Fort Hill Brook to its intersection with the centerline of Fort Hill Road (U.S. Route 1); thence running easterly with the centerline of Fort Hill Road (U.S. Route 1) to the intersection of Flanders Road; thence running northerly along the centerline of Flanders Road to its intersection with the centerline of the south bound lane of Interstate Route 95; thence running easterly with the centerline of the south bound lane of Interstate Route 95 to its intersection with the centerline of Noank Ledyard Road; thence running southerly, southwesterly and southerly with the centerline of Noank Ledyard Road to its intersection with New London Road (U.S. Route 1) and Fishtown Road; thence running southerly and southeasterly with the centerline of Fishtown Road to its intersection with Elm Street (Connecticut Route 215); thence running southeasterly along the prolongation southeasterly of the centerline of Fishtown Road, crossing Elm Street (Connecticut Route 215), to the shore and Beebe Cove; thence running southerly in Beebe Cove to a point west of Half Penny Island and northwesterly of the railroad bridge over Beebe Cove; thence running southeasterly in Beebe Cove through the railroad bridge to the GROTON-STONINGTON town line and to the point of the beginning. All areas lying within the foregoing boundaries shall constitute the Seventh Voting District of the Town of Groton.

2. Changes to Districts One, Four and Five have been made as required by the 2011 Redistricting Plan enacted by the State of Connecticut.

3. By vote of the Groton Town Council, the former Districts Four and Five have been combined. The resulting district will henceforth be known as District Four.

4. By vote of the Groton Town Council, a portion of District 8 has been combined with District 1.

5. Districts Six, Seven and Eight have been renumbered to reflect the combining of Districts Four and Five. Henceforth, District Six will be known as District Five; District Seven will be known as District Six; and District Eight will be known as District Seven.

**Introduced by the Mayor and Referred for Information only to the RTM**

**2013-0059**

**Resolution Setting Public Hearing on Ordinance Changing and Redefining the Voting Districts**

**RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE CHANGING AND REDEFINING THE VOTING DISTRICTS**

RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a public hearing on an Ordinance Changing and Redefining the Voting Districts on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall Annex Community Room 1.

**A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2013-0060**

**Resolution on Charles Barnum Asbestos Floor Tile Removal**

**RESOLUTION ON CHARLES BARNUM ASBESTOS FLOOR TILE REMOVAL**

WHEREAS, the Groton Board of Education has determined that worn out asbestos floor tile must be abated and replaced at Charles Barnum Elementary School, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council authorizes the Groton Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the proposed project to remove

and replace all asbestos containing floor tile in Charles Barnum Elementary School, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Permanent School Building Committee is hereby established as the building committee with regard to the proposed project to remove and replace all remaining asbestos containing floor tile in Charles Barnum Elementary School, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council hereby authorizes the preparation of drawings and specifications for the proposed project to remove and replace all remaining asbestos containing floor tile in Charles Barnum Elementary School.

**A motion was made by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2013-0062      Public Hearing on FYE 2014 Proposed Budget**

RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING DATE ON FYE 2014 PROPOSED BUDGET

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council will hold a public hearing on the FYE 2014 Proposed Budget, pursuant to Section 9.3.1 of the Town Charter, on Thursday, March 28, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Groton Senior Center, Newtown Road (Route 117), Groton, Connecticut.

**A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**XI.      OTHER BUSINESS**

*Councilor Schmidt noted that an Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee meeting will be held on March 11, 2013.*

*Per Councilor Flax's request, a resolution which had been tabled, 2012-0333 Appointment of William Middleton to the Historic District Commission will be placed on the next Personnel/Appointments/Rules Committee agenda.*

**XII.      ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Watson and so voted unanimously.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council*

*Lori Watrous, Office Assistant*